



Student Services

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Evaluation of Print Sources

Once you have located resources, it is important to verify that they are reliable and trustworthy. You would not wish to base your paper or speech on information that is considered questionable. The process to evaluate books or articles is simple: locate information about the author and a review of the book or journal.

How to Qualify a Book

Is the author well qualified?

- Use the index to *Contemporary Authors* (Reference Index Area) or [Gale Biography Resource Center](#) to locate biographical information about the author.
- Indexes to *Contemporary Authors* are located in the library's index area and online [here](#).
- If the author is not found, search the Internet, [Gale Expanded Academic](#), [EBSCOhost](#), or ask a Librarian.

How was the book reviewed by critics?

- Check *Book Review Digest* (by author's last name) in the year of publication.
- If no review is found, check the year before and after the year of publication.
- If still no review is found, check [Gale Expanded Academic](#) or [EBSCOhost](#) for a review.

How to Qualify a Periodical Article

Is the author well qualified?

- Use the index to *Contemporary Authors* (Reference Index Area) or [Gale Biography Resource Center](#) to locate biographical information about the author.
- Indexes to *Contemporary Authors* are located in the library's index area and online [here](#).
- If the author is not found, search the Internet, [Gale Expanded Academic](#), [EBSCOhost](#), or ask a Librarian.

What is the reputation of the periodical?

- Using *Magazines for Libraries* (in the Reference Index Area), look up the title of the periodical in the Title Index in the back. (*Tip: There are two indexes in the back; make sure you use the Title Index.*)
- Read the paragraph about the periodical.
 - Is it refereed (scholarly)?
 - Who is the audience for whom it is written?
 - What is the reputation of the periodical?

- Does it have a political or religious bias?
 - Is it considered to be reliable or trustworthy?
- If the periodical is not found in Magazines for Libraries, use the "publication information" in [Gale Expanded Academic](#) or [EBSCOhost](#).